

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2008

**COMMITTEE ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor M. Shahid Ali (Chair)

Councillor A A Sardar (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Salim Ullah

Councillor Stephanie Eaton

Officers Present:

Graham White – Interim Legal Services Manager, Chief Executive's
Louise Stamp – Electoral Services Manager
John Williams – (Service Head, Democratic Services)
Amanda Thompson – (Team Leader - Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carli Harper-Penman and Tim O'Flaherty.

Councillor Stephanie Eaton deputised for Councillor O'Flaherty.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Appointments to External Bodies

The Committee considered the nominations for appointments to external Bodies which had been received from the political groups, and

RESOLVED

- 1) That consideration of the appointment to the Cultural Industries Development Agency be deferred to the next meeting as there were currently no nominees;
- 2) That Councillor Oliur Rahman be appointed to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority but consideration of a deputy be deferred to the next meeting as there were currently no nominees;
- 3) That Councillor Waiseul Islam replace Councillor Alex Heslop on the London Housing Consortium;
- 4) That Councillors Rania Khan and Shiria Khatun be appointed to the Poplar Harca,
- 5) That consideration of the appointment to the Stepney Relief In Need Charity be deferred to the next meeting as there were currently no nominees;
- 6) On a vote of 3 to 1 that Councillor A A Sardar be appointed to Tower Hamlets College;
- 7) On a majority vote that Councillor Tim O'Flaherty be appointed to Tower Hamlets Community Transport; and
- 8) That Councillor Rofique U. Ahmed be appointed to Tower Hamlets Sports Council.

4.2 Electoral Review

Received a report concerning the possibility of a further electoral review for the Borough.

Graham White, Interim Legal Services Manager, advised the Committee that despite seven wards in the Borough having an electoral imbalance, the Boundary Committee for England of the Electoral Commission had identified its priorities for 2009-2011 and the Council's situation did not fulfil any of the criteria for review prior to the next periodic review in 2011.

The Committee were advised that in any event a review could take up to 52 weeks to complete, and therefore it would be better to wait until after the elections in 2009.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the current position in relation to the possibility of an early electoral review be noted, and
- 2) That a request for a review be made to the Electoral Commission as soon as possible after the 2009 election

4.3 Constitution - Additional Delegation

Graham White, Interim Legal Services Manager, presented a report recommending an additional delegation to the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal to serve notices to remove unlawful advertising hoardings and structures which was currently delegated to the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture.

The Committee noted that a major campaign to remove such hoardings and to deal with any new ones which might appear in the build up to the 2012 Olympic Games was being undertaken by the planning enforcement section of the Development and Renewal Directorate.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Corporate Director, Development and Renewal be authorised to exercise the Council's powers under Section 11 London Local Authorities Act 1995, and
- 2) That the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly

The meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Chair, Councillor M. Shahid Ali
General Purposes Committee